sustainable sanitation alliance (/index.php)

Backcountry Sanitation Manual, 2nd Edition

Appalachian Trail Conservancy (2014)

This document is about low-temperature slow composting toilets (called her moldering privy) in remote hiking areas in the US.

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The ATC Backcountry Sanitation Manual addresses the management of human waste in the backcountry. Proper management of human waste protects hikers, the environment, and trail maintainers.

2nd Edition

Backcountry Sanitation MANUAL

Accessible Moldering Privy

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

USDA FOREST SERVICE

GREEN MOUNTAIN CLUB

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Author:
Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Uploaded by:
Elisabeth von Muench

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Resolving problems of backcountry sanitation

is a continuous challenge for AppalachianTrail (A.T.) clubs and land managers. This manual was created in the belief that all remote recreation areas will benefit from an expanded discussion of backcountry sanitation. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) hopes it will offer a step up for those who operate composting systems, as well as for those Trail clubs and land managers who have reached a crossroads in backcountry sanitation decisions.

This manual introduces a new, simpler, and often safer method of composting human waste in the backcountry—the moldering privy. It

is a design that saves money and—even more importantly—labor. Whether volunteer or paid, labor has always been in short supply on the A.T. The moldering privy is suitable for the majority of sites that need better waste management than pit privies or cat-holes, and it is cheaper and easier to implement than other alternatives.

The approaches recommended here are distilled from the experiences of several hundred people operating composting toilets and other systems that have successfully resolved human waste problems at backcountry sites along the A.T. Primary emphasis has been placed on composting systems, because they have been the most successful in the majority of backcountry situations. However, other systems receive some attention, especially to provide comparisons with composting systems.

The Green Mountain Club and the Appalachian Mountain Club began using composting systems in the late 1970s, and their systems have undergone continual evolution and improvement. Several other A.T. clubs and land managers have used different composting systems with varying success.

Bibliographic information

Appalachian Trail Conservancy (2014). Backcountry Sanitation Manual, 2nd Edition. Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Green Mountain Club, USDA Forest Service, National Park Service, USA

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Composting, vermicomposting (solid waste), composting toilets English North America Practitioners Rural

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Appalachian Trail website (resources) (http://www.appalachiantrail.org/what-we-do/trail-management-support/volunteer_toolkit/reference-materials)

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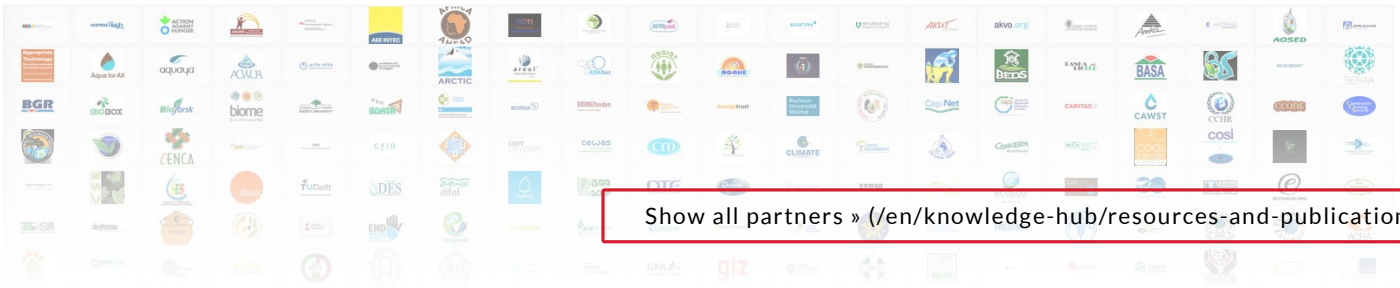

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